Forest (Conservation) Act while proposing cases of diversion of Forest land, in view of procedural delays causing hardships to tribals. While such requests are kept in mind, other issues of importances such as conservation of forests, prevention of fragmentation of forest land, need for increasing agricultural production etc. are also considered before taking decision on such proposals. Besides, revised and comprehensive Rules and Guide Lines have been formulated by decentralising the process of decision taking and rationalising procedures and requirements to streamline disposal of cases.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Cutting of the Mango Trees in Uttar Pradesh

1052. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that mango growers association in Lucknow, Malihabad and Kakori in Uttar Pradesh and in other States have requested the Government to free them from Forest Act so as to cut the Mango trees and use the area for cultivation;

(b) if so, what are the reasons and problems of Mango growers taking such decision to change the mango belt into farming land;

(c) what steps has been taken by Government to save the mango belts from being turned into agricultural area in Uttar pradesh and in other States of the country;

(d) whether any assurances has been given to the Mango growers in the country; and

(e) if so, what are the details with regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) No representation has been received from any mango-growers association, either through State Governments or directly, with a request to free them from Forest Act so as to cut Mango trees and use the area for cultivation. Felling of trees on private land does not come under the purview of the Indian Forest Act, 1927.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) In order to regulate the felling and replanting of trees on private lands, a number of States including Uttar Pradesh have enacted State Legislations like the Tree Protection Act, Tree Preservation Act etc. under which cutting of certain trees is regulated.

Species of Plants

1053. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the names of 195 species of rare and endangered plants which have been recently included in the Red Data Book of Indian Plants volume III;

(b) what is the total number of such plants in the Red Data Book; and

(c) what is being done to preserve these species ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) The names of the 195 species of rare and endangered plants that have been included in the Red Data Book of Indian Plants (volume-III) published by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) in 1990 are given in the annexure. [*See* Appendix CL XVIII, Annexure No. 23]

(b) A total of 620 plants have been included in the three published volumes of the Red Data Book of Indian Plants.

(c) The measures taken to preserve these species include the following :

(i) Establishment of a network of protected areas as National Parks, Sanctuaries and Biosphere Reserves for protection of the flora and fauna including threatened species;

(ii) Enforcement of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which, after the amendment in 1991, includes endangered plants and which now provides strict penalties for infringement;

(iii) Restriction on commercial exploitation and export of endangered species through regulations in pursuance of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972;

(iv) Ex-situ conservation of endangered

species in botanical gardens to ensure survival of these species under captive conditions for their future restoration in the wild;

(v) Development of protocol for multiplication of some endangered species of plants through tissue culture, Seed Banks, etc.

(vi) Survey and collection of data on threatened and endangered species and efforts for their rehabilitation; and

(vii) Enlisting rare and threatened species in the Red Data Book of Indian Plants published by BSI for creating awareness about the need for conservation.

Environmental Regulation of Export Packaging Materials

1054. SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the European Commission is to enact legislation on the Environmental regulation of export packaging materials that will apply the entry of goods into all EEC member countries;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to make Indian exporters and industrialists aware of environmental norms in their use of packaging materials; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take/has taken to ensure implementation of these norms to prevent further environmental degradation of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Commission of the European Communities is yet to finalise its proposals on packaging and packaging waste.

(b) to (c) Do not arise.

1055. *[Transferred to 10th August, 1993]*

Drive to make Delhi Green

1056. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Municipal Corporation of Delhi has recently invited participation of voluntary, social organisations, residents' Welfare Association, firms, companies and Eco lovers to make Delhi Green;

(b) if so, the details thereof with names of such institutions responded to this call;

(c) whether any financial assistance or any other assistance would be provided to these Institutions for their participation in this drive;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any work on this drive has since been started; and

(f) If so, the details thereof and if not the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Twenty three institutions have so far responded to the invitation of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi to participate in the programme to make Delhi green. The names of the institutions in question and the area where they would take up the greening activities is given in the statement *enclosed. (See* below)

(c) and (d) The institutions in question have been involved in the programme on the basis of their willingness to participate voluntarily and no financial assistance has been provided to them. However the MCD have issued advertisements in the newspaper to involve the institutions and the local people in the programme.

(e) and (f) The programme has been started on the sites mentioned in the enclosed statement. The activities being undertaken include planting of trees, installation of tree guards, installation of tubewells, maintenance of the saplings planted etc.